

Mr Alan Wells,
Chairman, Isle of Wight Conservative Association,
58, The Mall,
Carisbrooke Road<Newport,
PO

15th October 2013

Dear Alan,

I was disappointed to read in the County press, 11th October 2013 the headline "Tory row over MP 'plot'" and below it a quote from yourself that "All this nonsense about a cabal, is to my knowledge, completely untrue".

I am appalled that you have used your position to publicly refute something that you know is true. In fact, you have been part of, and are still in close contact with a group within the Conservative party on the Island that is actively seeking to de-select Andrew Turner.

Let me remind you that shortly after you were elected to the post of Chairman at the 2012 AGM you stated at the first Officers' Meeting on 3rd April 2012 that the only reason you had taken the post of Chairman was "to get rid of Andrew". All officers present witnessed this statement.

On [REDACTED] 2013 when I [REDACTED] my post as [REDACTED], you had received a letter from a group of 12 ex-councillors and candidates that stated that conduct of Andrew Turner and his office raised grave doubts about his future willingness to fulfil our association's united purpose to secure the election of Conservative candidates.

At that meeting, it was stated by [REDACTED] that "at least now the campaign to get rid of Andrew Turner is out in the open". You did not refute that statement when you had the chance to do so.

At that meeting you were also given evidence that David Pugh (a co-signatory to that letter) was telling officers that Andrew Turner was a disgrace and needed to go. He also stated that the Island needed a new parliamentary candidate, someone that members could unite behind. He called the MP a 'disgrace' and reiterated his position that he stood fully by the letter.

Since that letter, despite saying that you dissociated yourself from the letter, you have co-opted the main signatory on to the Executive Council!

To state that the facts laid bare by concerned Conservatives in On The Wight and in the County Press is 'nonsense' is misleading the members you purport to serve, and the public. In polite terms, you have been at the very least, economical with the truth. You would have been well advised to say 'no comment'

You should be mindful that some members might feel obliged to speak themselves to journalists in a full and frank manner if you do not deal impartially with this matter and give the Conservative Party some credibility with the voters. The General Election is less than 18 months away.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]